

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 02338 130049Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 LAB-04 /065 W
-----010186 132014Z /73

R 121800Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1098
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 2338

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, TD
SUBJECT: PANDAY REMOVED AS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

1. AFTER WEEKS OF RUMORED CONFLICT WITHIN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE OPPOSITION UNITED LABOR FRONT (ULF) BASDEO PANDAY WAS OUSTED AS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION ON AUGUST 9 BY HIS PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE. NO PUBLIC DECISION HAS BEEN REACHED CONCERNING A SUCCESSOR, BUT CHIEF WHIP FAFFIQUE SHAH IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED THE FRONT RUNNER. IN BRIEFING THE PRESS ON PANDAY'S DISMISSAL, CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS GEORGE WEEKES, GEORGE SAMMY AND RAFFIQUE SHAH CLAIMED THAT PANDAY HAD LOST THE ULF'S CONFIDENCE AND RESPECT, AND THEY ACCUSED HIM OF DIVERGING FROM THE PARTY'S POSITIONS ON RACE, ON TOBAGO'S STATUS AND OTHER ISSUES. THEY ALSO ALLEGED THAT PANDAY WAS SEEKING TO ENTRENCH HIMSELF AS ABSOLUTE PARTY LEADER.

2. PANDAY, WHO DID NOT ATTEND THE SIX-HOUR CENTRAL COMMITTEE SESSION WHICH VOTED HIS REMOVAL, CLAIMED THIS ACTION WAS THE WORK OF EXTREMISTS WITHIN THE CENTRAL
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COMMITTEE WHO HAD NO SUPPORT FROM THE MEMBERSHIP AND WHO WERE ATTEMPTING TO "HIJACK" THE PARTY. MAINTAINING THAT ONLY THE MEMBERSHIP SHOULD DECIDE THE LEADERSHIP ISSUE, PANDAY CALLED FOR A SPECIAL PARTY CONGRESS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME FOR THIS PURPOSE. HOWEVER, HE REPORTEDLY STATED THAT "THERE WILL BE NO SPLIT IN THE PARTY" AND THAT HE REMAINED COMMITTED TO AFRICAN-INDIAN

WORKING-CLASS UNITY.

3. PANDAY'S STATUS IS NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR, SINCE HE REMAINS THE OFFICIAL LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION UNTIL HE IS FORMALLY DISMISSED BY THE PRESIDENT OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO. UNTIL THEN, HE COULD THEORETICALLY REVOKE THE APPOINTMENTS OF THE SIX ULF SENATORS AND PERHAPS CAUSE OTHER DIFFICULTIES FOR THE PARTY. MOREOVER, HE ALSO COULD BE REINSTATED EVENTUALLY AS LEADER BY A FULL PARTY CONGRESS, A POSSIBILITY WHICH CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED IN VIEW OF HIS RECENT UNANIMOUS ELECTION AS PRESIDENT GENERAL OF THE 15,000-MEMBER SUGAR-WORKERS' UNION AND HIS CONSIDERABLE GRASSROOTS SUPPORT.

4. THE EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE AN ASSESSMENT OF THE ULF SITUATION WHEN THE PICTURE BECOMES CLEARER. IT IS QUITE OBVIOUS, HOWEVER, THAT DEVELOPMENTS THIS WEEK FURTHER DIMINISH THE ULF'S POTENTIAL TO PROVIDE EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION TO THE WILLIAMS GOVERNMENT. BIO DATA ON SHAH, WHO HEADS THE ISLAND WIDE CANE FARMERS TRADE UNION AND IS CONSIDERED TO REPRESENT THE LEFT WING OF THE ULF, IS AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON.
FOX

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LEADERS, PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, OPPOSITION PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PORTO02338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770293-0102
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770867/aaaacemd.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2449755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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SAS ID: 1617003
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANDAY REMOVED AS LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, TD, ULF, (PANDAY, BASDEO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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